

Message Text

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EXDIS- DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS; PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE BEIRUT RAID

A. US NOW PREPARED TO ABSTAIN . . .

AFTER SUCCESS WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH, USUN INFORMED THE LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE THAT WE WILL ABSTAIN ON THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED AND WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR IF HE COULD ACCEPT SPECIFIC FURTHER CHANGES. HE AND THE OTHER ARAB REPRESENTATIVES COULD NOT. LATE ON APRIL 20, USUN REPORTED GREAT NON- ALIGNED IRRITATION OVER OUR SUCCESS. THE MISSION, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THE ODDS ARE SLIGHTLY IN FAVOR OF THE DRAFT BEING APPROVED ON APRIL 21. (CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 1487, 1493, 4/20.

B. . . . AND PROVOKES A VARIETY OF REACTIONS . . .

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THE PRC REPRESENTATIVE STRESSED TO USUN THE NEGATIVE AFRICAN REACTION TO REVISIONS WHICH THEY INTERPRET AS POSSIBLY APPLYING TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO THE UN EXPRESSED " SHOCK AND DISMAY," WHILE THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO THE US TOLD THE DEPARTMENT HE IS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THERE WOULD BE " OUTRAGED REACTION" BY HIS GOVERNMENT. (SECRET) USUN 1487, 1494; STATE 075568, 4/20 (EXDIS).

C. . . . WHILE THE DEPARTMENT LOOKS AHEAD

ANTICIPATING A DIFFICULT VOTE AND A POSSIBLE CHINESE VETO, THE DEPARTMENT IS MOVING TO AVOID THE RESUR-RECTION OF THE UNAMENDED BRITISH- FRENCH RESOLUTION. THE DEPARTMENT SEES MERIT IN THE IDEA THAT, SHOULD THE COMPROMISE RESOLUTION FAIL, THE SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT BE ADJOURNED WITH THE TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT LEBANON WOULD NOT PURSUE THE QUESTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) STATE 075220, 4/20.

2. US CAIRO INTERESTS SECTION COMMENTS ON MIRAGE TRANSFER

OUR INTERESTS SECTION IN CAIRO NOTES THAT ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE REPORTED MIRAGE TRANSFERS WOULD BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVANCE BASES FOR MIRAGES IN EGYPT. THE BULK OF THE MIRAGES COULD THUS BE KEPT IN LIBYA, LEAVING LIBYA IN A POSITION TO PLAUSIBLY DENY THE TRANSFER. A MAJOR CONFRONTATION WITH FRANCE MIGHT THEREBY BE AVOIDED. (SECRET) CAIRO 1180, 4/20 (EXDIS).

3. PROPOSED MANDATORY EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH DEPENDENTS

AMBASSADOR SWANK REPORTS FROM PHNOM PENH THAT HE IS PROCEEDING WITH MEASURES TO REDUCE PERSONNEL AT THE EMBASSY. HE PLANS TO REQUIRE THE EVACUATION OF DEPENDENT WIVES AND TO OFFER THE SAME OPTION TO SINGLE WOMEN AND WORKING WIVES. THE AMBASSADOR NOTES THAT THE EMBASSY CAN NO LONGER MAKE A RELIABLE ESTIMATE OF FANK WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND PHNOM PENH, GIVEN FANK' S DETERIORATING MORALE AND PERFORMANCE. (SECRET) PHNOM SECRET

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PENH 3777, 4/21 (EXDIS).

4. EMBASSY VIENTIANE PERSPECTIVE ON THE LAO CEASE- FIRE

IN A TWO- MONTH OVERVIEW OF THE LAO CEASE- FIRE, EMBASSY VIENTIANE OBSERVES THAT THE MOST STRIKING DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE SHARP AND CONTINUING DECLINE IN THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF MILITARY HOSTILITIES. IN SUM, THE CEASE- FIRE IS GENERALLY EFFECTIVE. THE LPF HAS NOT INTENSIFIED ITS POLITICAL AGITATION. THE SHARPEST DISAPPOINTMENT SINCE THE CEASE- FIRE HAS BEEN THE DELAY IN NEGOTIATING THE FORMATION OF A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) VIENTIANE 3059, 4/20. PORTER

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